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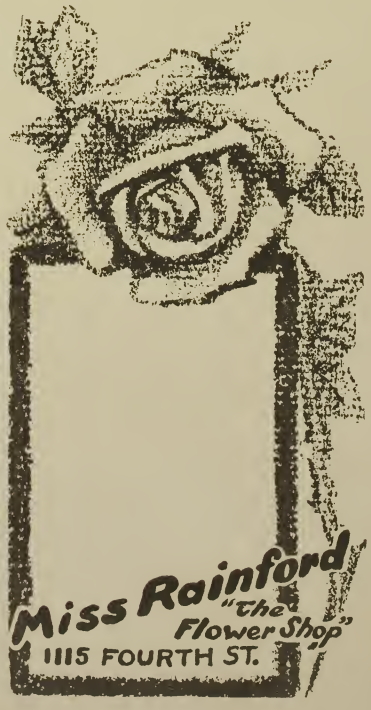

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

Vol. 6 POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, APRIL, 1915 No. 10

WE were at the Convention of the Arboriculturists last month and a lady arose during a convenient pause in the general cussing of the lack of sympathy with tree planting endeavor, and said, "Excuse me I am from the East and I should like to ask if anything is being done towards the parking of the water front"? That "parking" put the matter up to our Park Superintendent who bravely wandered up the whole shore line and found a Park by the sea at La Jolla and another at the Torrey Pines, but that lady, who turned out afterwards to be the President of a back east improvement club, was not to be taken on a fishing excursion and seemed so concerned that we asked permission to come to her rescue. Daring much and assuming more we said, "Lady do not judge us all by appearances which we admit are against us; scattered among the throng that center their hopes on factory chimneys, a forest of masts and the accompanying smoke and smell, are a few dreamers who have heard of the harbor of Rio de Janeiro, of Hamburg, of the Thames Embankment, and they have visions of a water park in the North Bay, a series of little islands, wonderful marine gardens, tied to the main land by a beautiful arcade spanning the railroad tracks and reaching up to the Mission Hills. An architect has even drawn plans thus, and in spite of what crime may be now committed in the name of business development, the future must see this dream come true because it is written in the mind that planned San Diego before even the Mission fathers taught the Indians to make mud bricks." The lady was still looking why? but we had done our best and felt that some one else should try Clairvoyance.

That singularly veracious account is given to show that the outside world expects parking on our water front.

To continue this subject of Parks. The work accomplished during the last two years in Balboa is little short of miraculous considering the soil conditions. Many whole plots had to be excavated by blasting and soil hauled in, and the majority of trees are there by grace of giant powder. San Diegans should know and enjoy their park, and it would seem as if it were a legitimate part of the work of the park board to formulate a campaign to bring people and park closer together. It is conceivable that a weekly excursion to points of special interest conducted by some one with the necessary knowledge of plant life and the ability to impart the same, would be very popular and well worth while. Miss Sessions could make such a trip intensely interesting and instructive. The maintenance of the Park as now developed without considering further extension is bound to entail a sacrifice for upkeep from a community that is only one hundred thousand for advertising purposes. It is no part of the scope of a gardening magazine to be discursive on business conditions, but it may assume that dollars won't grow so plentifully on vacant lots in the next two years as in some of the Halcyon days not long past and that pruning will be popular in civic expenses as well as in orchards. If the people are to be expected to look cheerfully on an increased appropriation for park purposes, they should be shown that they are getting their money's worth, and this we believe they certainly are.

It was with a feeling of relief that we heard the Park Superintendent give voice in public to the sentiment that whole sections of Balboa should never be touched, meaning that the wild growth should be encouraged and not improved out of existence. We of the West are growing out of a completely unwarranted contempt for our native growths, and lest any should be inclined to self gratulation over this change let it be noted that the reason therefor is obviously the endorsement of these growths by Europe and the Eastern States. England and Germany have worked with our California poppy till seed can be obtained covering a wide range of color, and now France is working with our Ceanothus and has long ago done many things with Lupines. In view of the remarkable growth

and beauty of the Ceanothus that have been planted in our gardens, it would seem that it should be extensively planted in the Park. Just outside the window is a ceanothus planted just a year ago as a six-inch plant, that is now ten feet high with a spread of twelve feet, and is covered with bloom. A native sycamore beside it set out at the same time is a trifle taller and has a stem three and a half inches in diameter.

Why not live oaks and ceanothus for the planting on that El Cajon Avenue? The only objection made against this proposal so far has been that they are of slow growth, which are under conditions of drouth that would kill promptly any strictly domestic planting, but given reasonable attention they thrive amazingly. Live oak planted six years ago out of a five-inch pot, is twenty feet high, spreads fifteen feet and its trunk at the base is eleven and a half inches in diameter. The above measures have been made with a rule within half an hour.

The water department has announced that it does not expect any further considerable catchment of water in its reservoirs this season. We are naturally disappointed as the passing of the election and emphatic endorsement of the status quo in this department of city government, it would seem might have provided leisure and stimulus to have arranged for the rains in April that we did not get in March. There is hope in the many times proven fact that our rain man at the head of the ditch, so to speak, delights in confounding the prophecies of mere mortals and might take a notion to show this trait once more.

It is very humiliating to have to acknowledge that a horned toad and a tumble weed have a source of information denied to us, even to water departments, and these have said the rains are practically done let us get out in the sun. We met a horned toad yesterday, he was extremely flat and empty appearing but he evidently had no doubts about his diagnosis. If further evidence is necessary we have fixed a roof that has been leaking all winter.

THE APRIL GARDEN

By Walter Birch

With the dry conditions that have prevailed now for such a comparatively long time it is up to every gardener to keep the ground thoroughly worked, and a fine mulch on top. When you irrigate, don't sprinkle, but run furrows down your rows of vegetables and run the water in the furrows, until the ground is well soaked. Rake over the furrows as soon as possible, and when the ground is dry enough to cultivate thoroughly, do so. It is not too late yet to plant peas, American Wonder and Little Gem will come in before the heat of the summer, and do well if planted where they can get some shade. Continue your potato planting and get in a good supply of squash, melon and cucumber. April is one of the best months for planting beans, both bush and pole, so be sure to get a good supply in, and don't forget to try some of the Monstrous Bush Limas. They are large and fine flavored and will bear continuously most of the year. Continue setting out egg plant and peppers, and be sure to get your sweet potato plants in now. The yellow Nancemond is one of the most satisfactory varieties for this part of the country. Plant in rows about three feet apart in good loamy land. Plant your summer flowering bulbs and seed of annuals and perennials now. Gladiolas and dahlia, tube rose, etc., are all in season. Your lawn will be much improved now by a good top dressing of pulverized cow manure or Armour's Lawn and Garden Fertilizer. Apply the latter at the rate of about 100 lbs. to 800 square feet, and then turn your sprinkler on and wash it into the roots.

The time is now right for planting citrus trees, orange, lemon and grape fruit, and it will probably be a long time before such good stock can be bought at such attractive prices again. If you have a well sheltered piece of land in a warm location you should plant out some Alligator pear trees, Cherimoyas or custard apples, mangoes, etc. All these fruits are well worth having and are doing well in a number of different locations in Southern California.

Chorizema means "dancing water". The botanists, tired and warm, had been looking for water but only found salt springs. At last, much exhausted, they came upon a fine spring and their joy was evidenced by dancing, as it were. This plant being found near by, they gave it this name, made up from Cheiros "dancing", and zema "spring of water'. Chorizema illicifolia in the four beds in the front terrace of the Southern California Counties building are finer each week.

Monthly Excursion Through Exposition Grounds

R. W. SUMNER

If you contemplate a trip to the "Expo" during April you will be greeted by some flowers that are no doubt new to you and perhaps the following list will help you to call them by name, if you do not already know them.

On the right hand side as you approach the bridge some Melaleuca hybrids grow with rather loose spikes of red soon to bloom. Just a step further are a few larger shrubs of Callistemon rigidus with narrow rigid leaves and very large red spikes of genuine bottle brushes. As you go onto the bridge look down to the right and note how the western hillside is covered with the "loco weed" bloom Astragalus leucopsis, a rather uninteresting color taken alone but the mass of it is quite effective. As you get on the "Expo side", down to the left you will see some light green bushy plants with remarkable blue spikes of flowers, Echium fastuosum. A couple of years ago the gardeners Chanced to see a wonderful illustration of this bush in "The Flowers and Gardens of Madeira." This is the outcome of that inspiration. Further over on the hillside graceful sprays of Spiraea wave in the breeze. The bushes covered with yellow pea-like blossoms are genista canariensis. Passing up the prado watch for vines in bloom. You will see Bignonia venusta, the orange colored one, still in evidence. They were there at the "Opening." Bignonia Tweediana will soon be on show with its large lemon yellow flowers. Bougainvillea lateritia, with their red paper like bracts, are making a show too.

The tall pink and white Watsonia bow with stately mien on the edge of the shrubbery lining the Arcades, and the blue of the Ageratum Mexicanum contrasts with the red of the Grevillea the lemanniana just behind it.

Pass along the path to the Botanical building. In the pool are yellow and white and red Nymphaeas waiting only for some warm weather to bring them to the surface. Near the upper end is a mass of "Water Poppy" Limnocharis Humboldti soon to bloom. The "Parrots feather" Myriophyllum roserpinacoides is growing already so fast that it is trying to climb the wall behind it. The" Arrowhead" Sagittaria Montevidiensis is standing up well too, with its odd arrowlike leaves and white flowers.

In the small pool are a larger assortment of red, blue, white, and yellow nymphaeas and up in and near the bog look for sagittaria again, and "Water Poppy". Also "Water Hyacinth", Eicharnia speciosa, the one which has the little life preservers at the base of the leaf and E. ayurens also blue, but without "preservers"; however, they are good aquatics and can float without extra aid. These should bloom in the latter part of April if we have some warm weather.

Now pass around the building to the east, then go west on the winding canon path, with its many plants and canon views. First a bed of Streptosolen Jamesonii will attract you. It has been in bloom since January and still has some time to go. On the left the white flowers of Leptospermum laegivatum are blooming into white sprays; the buds are like little half-popped popcorns. Just a step further the buds of the "Oleander" Nerium oleander are breaking. In the Japanese tea garden Azalea mollis is getting all the attention with its rounded bush of red bloom. Across the brook is a Coronella Glauca with its tiny rounded leaves and bright yellow pea like flowers crowding each other for room.

The bushes at the junction of the paths with sparce set red leaves and large clusters of small white flowers, and with perhaps some of the red berries still in evidence is Nandina domestica. On the left as you turn there are two trees of Myoporum, not in bloom but these are good specimens to note the difference between Myoporum acuminatum and M. laetum, with its larger and darker green leaves.

As you follow along this path your eyes will soon spy to the north on a bare hardpan ledge some Mesembryanthemum floribundum with its glistening pink bloom, a good ground cover for such bare spots and poor soil. Just back of the Sacramento Building there are more Echium fastuosum closer at hand than the first.

Again looking down into the canon to the north the graceful white sprays of Spiraea.

Now for varieties sake we will put on Jack the Giant Killer's boots and jump here and there about the grounds. The first leap will bring you south of the west entrance of the Southern Counties Building and a white Genista is on show, Genista alba. Now take a big step to the lawn in front of the Organ; the Lobelia Crystal Palace compacta (dwarf vaciety) that Miss Sessions spoke of some time ago, is in bloom and shows what the mixed border with Ageratum looks like. Now a short leap to Palm Canon back of the Kern-Tulare Building, on the canon sides large

white trumpet-like flowers are hanging in masses. They are Datura arborea and with the Echium made an impression when looking through the Flowers and Gardens of Madeira. It should be added here that Madeira has a climate and topography very much like our own and the beautiful effects illustrated in this book could no doubt be duplicated in time.

It will be no mistake to go into the Botanical Building and see a wonderful bloom of Rhododendron, the display of Easter Lilies the Cinerarias and Primulas, also the Streptocarpus hybrids with their long reclining leaves and the graceful flowers springing from the center. It belongs to the Gloxinia family.

It would take a long time to mention everything but if this has created just a little interest in plant life it has accomplished much By way of argument, who of you are in a business that does not include some sort of plant life, fibre, rubber, wood, and many others? Do you know all about that "fibre" for instance? Look it up, where is grows, how it grows, its name and I'll guarantee you'll find as interesting a quest as ever you had in the past.

OUR FIRST BULB SHOW

The Early Bird has been allowed to do the Bulb Show, held last month within the Exposition precincts, because the usual reporter was politically engaged. For some reason it reminds him of the occasion when the San Francisco Examiner sent him to report a Ceramic Exhibition and how utterly he failed to do justice to the event. His undoing was accomplished by the various Ceramikers who captured him in turn and filled his unsophisticated head with details of their own superlative achievements. That was his last detail on that or any other paper and recognizing his reportorial inefficiency he laid low till he could do as he liked in the editorial chair. So much by way of apology. If the reader does not like my report, let him cuss politics; he can't overdo the thing there.

Ten years ago I wandered down the main street of Barcelona, which is wide enough to allow of a double row of big trees along its center, and under the shade of these is held a busy market, one section of which is devoted to cut flowers. That the floral exhibition recently held under the arcade of the California Building at our Exposition should have recalled this scene to my mind shows that the scheme of the Floral Association had been successful, for it aimed to produce the atmosphere of a Spanish Flower market. So strong was this atmosphere that visitors continually asked to buy blooms, which being against rules and regulations, basketsful were distributed gratis by Spanish Senoritas captured and dressed for the occasion.

Having been just a spectator I have no hesitancy in rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and confidently state that this show proved the great efficiency of the Floral Association and its unique value to the community. Thousands of visitors passing along the flower decked corridor, were greeted pleasantly and handed a posy. If they sought information it was cheerfully furnished. If they wanted to be let alone that was also granted and hosts of them expressed extreme pleasure in their visit. They came from many distant places and all left with the glory of the color display in their eyes and the sweet savor in their nostrils. Was it worth while? Is the Floral Association worthy of support and this its organ too?

The display of wild flowers by the schools, fourteen of them, was most interesting and worthy of more than a cursory inspection in spite of the fact that warm dry weather and inexperience in picking and packing had militated against a good presentation. It is evident that along this line lies an important work for the Association, and educators and school boards should co-operate to the uttermost. Just now the thought strikes me, "Why cannot the California Garden get itself into the hands of the City school teachers? it goes to those in the country."

Before leaving the wild flowers, it might be said that they don't lend themselves to the separate vase treatment and probably would feel more at home and look like it if massed in shallow pans, so as to make solid masses.

The bulb flowers were nothing to make a big noise about. The exceptionally dry, hot March had made them passe or bloomed them prematurely, nevertheless they put in an appearance, and for this, the time of the show was arranged.

The competitive feature, though classes were advertised and ribbons awarded, was quite subordinated to an atttractive arrangement and this sacrifice of the personal glorification to the general good was productive of a charming ensemble.

Some one else is going to get a list of awards and I don't pretend to pass on the merit of individual exhibits but I do wonder that only one of our local nursery folks did anything in this line. Of course that one was Miss Sessions who had a lot of interesting things as usual. The Nursery folks seem to

have forgotten the special effort the Floral Association made on the occasion of their convention last year. Perhaps it would not be out of the way to remind them that the visitors are still talking about that effort.

Just how many tons of queer fruits Messrs. Popenoe and Taft had to provide for the curious to sample has not been recorded but the pile of husks and seeds troubled the truck man. It was interesting to see the Hawaiians come to this display and identify their native fruits. One of them, a very young one though, for they are by nature polite, said there were bigger ones where she came from.

The quantity and variety of stuff furnished by the Park was a big endorsement of Superintendent Morley, who showed a willingness to meet the Association three-quarters of the way on every proposition.

The faithful workers of the Floral Association were out in force, and it is perhaps the greatest recognition that can be given of their cheerful help that it is felt that they do not want patting on the back every time they lend a hand. New and valuable allies put on aprons and shed coats and they were very welcome into the cult of the flower show.

Among the visitors were some who, though living in San Diego, have not been to the Flower Shows and it is to be hoped that their expressions of enthusiasm voiced a sentiment that will last till the next comes along with an entrance fee.

Among out of town attendants was "The Dreer", he of Philadelphia, and the Early Bird met him. Again my mind goes back into "The Houseboat on the Styx" to the incident when Sir Walter Raleigh having casually observed, "I met Queen Elizabeth just now on the Row", Confucius interjected, "Indeed, What if you did? Other people have met Queen Elizabeth. There is nothing original about that." I trust the connection is clear.

It may be of interest to know that Mr. Dreer is quite a well-behaved man for one who grows dahlias in fifty acre lots, however, he seems to have made the mistake of locating something at Santa Barbara and of course in consequence has his garden troubles there. I told him all my titles, about my dahlias and even mentioned that I had once sent his house fifty cents in stamps for seeds that did not germinate very well, but his mind and his eye wandered, he was inexplicably unimpressed, and without pretending any interest in me or my works, he said, "I have attended all the Expositions, both in this country and abroad, for many years, and from the standpoint of the planting this beats them all. Who was responsible for it?" Like the bad boy in school I started to say, 'I did, but I won't do it again," when I reflected there would be several willing criminals and sighting Mr. Gorton in the distance, I hailed him and invited Mr. Dreer to question him. This was a mistake, as from that moment I ceased to exist, for the Philadelphian, and for further information about him and all that he did and said, I must refer you to Mr. Gorton—for all I know they are talking yet.

Winners of Ribbons

Collection Gladiolas—1st. W. H. C. Lawrence, 3036 L.

Iris—1st. Mrs. C. A. A. McGee, Inspiration Heights.

Ranunculus—1st. Mrs. F. W. Scripps, Brae Mar; 2nd. W. H. C. Lawrence, 3036 L.

Anemone—1st. Mrs. F. C. Spalding, First and Spruce.

Fruit Blossoms—1st. Mrs. Russell Allen,

Arranged Basket—1st. Miss Leda Klauber; 2nd. Mrs. C. W. Darling.

School Wild Flower Exhibit—1st. Cottonwood School, Barrett P. O.; 2nd. Ramona School, Ramona P. O.

Wild Flower Exhibit, Individual—1st. The Ross Children, Pt. Loma.

Display "Lathyrus Splendens"—(Special) Cottonwood School, Barrett P. O.

Violets—Mrs. A. D. Robinson.

Nasturtiums—1st. Miss Leda Klauber, 3000 E St.; 2nd. Miss Nan Cristadora, Pt. Loma.

Specials—White Sprengeri, Mr. L. A. Blochman; Stocks, Mrs. Busch, Chula Vista; Pink Freesia, Mrs. Thos. Kneale, P. O. Box 24; General Display, Miss Mary Matthews, 1425 Blaine; Arranged Display, Mrs. A. D. Robinson.

Display Tropical Fruit—F. O. Popenoe.

Display Plants—Montarioso Nursery.

General Display—Miss K. O. Sessions.

Wild Flower Exhibits were sent in by the following Schools:

La Mesa, Bonsall, Monserrate, Mt. Fairview, Ramona, Ocean Beach, Dehesa, Cottonwood, Grantville, La Jolla, Las Flores, Roseville, San Pasqual.

WHAT'S IN A NAME.

Upon a time quoth anguished Juliet,
"What's in a name?"
Little in truth, as we're by Shakespeare told;
Little in truth, dear maid; and yet, and yet,
Our splendid poppy was "The Cup of Gold"
Till Eschscholtzia came.
—Cal. O'Chortus.

The March "Craftsman" is the real garden number. It is beautifully illustrated and shows you the great charm of the subjects selected.

The "Early Bird" Doesn't Believe in Signs

I have flown unto the mountains and am sitting now facing Quatay, whose smooth, velvet green slopes rise out of oak groves across the valley of the Sweetwater, which has risen almost to the volume of a river in this year of much rain. Last night the desert wind buffeted my cottage wall with whining violence and then died to silence only to return again to the charge, and today under a sky splashed with thin clouds, the wonderful landscape sleeps in great content with a warmth that rests and yet invigorates.

I know that down in my city by the sea the folks are chafeing at the wind, the men find their cigars like ashes in the mouth and the women in vain ply curling tongs and gently salivate their fingers, but up here it has banished damp and frost and made summer with the green of winter, and what care I if my feathers do stick up like quills upon the fretful porcupine.

In my mind runs an echo from the past, the text for a hard-shelled Baptist sermon (that is how it was labelled; I know nothing about hard shells except on nuts and my folks were strictly Episcopalian). Thus it ran, "For he shall gnaw a file and flee unto the mountains of Hepsidam, wheer the lion roareth and the wangdoodle mourneth for its firstborn." The particular part of the following discourse that present conditions recall, had to do with Hepsidam, and recited that there were more dams than Hepsidam, and I am moved to say that here are more dams than Morena and Barrett, the chief of which are the omnipresent fence signs that warn the traveller to keep upon the straight and narrow road under penalty of being variously damned if he does not. Admitting the rights of private ownership and the careless disregard of the same by a large percentage of the public, it is not conducive to the peace of the mountains and the attainment of that salvation the good book says they hold, to find one's way lined with notices all beginning with that discouraging word "No", "No camping", "No trespassing", "No shooting", "No admittance", "No crossing", all the changes that discredit the emphatic statement of the Psalmist, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof". David was evidently unacquainted with barbed wire and did not patronize sign painters, and his hills which so continually inspired him must have been free from the incubus of either.

Much, yes, most of this delectable land is valueless as an agricultural prospect, dry-farming advocates and real-estaters notwithstanding, in support of which consult the tax sheets, and is held presumably for grazing purposes, though the beast has not yet been discovered that can subsist on what grows there. Be this as it may, the great value to San Diego in its mountains is in their beauty and great tonic breathing spaces, and one or more locations, the best in these characteristics should be public property.

In various localities are subdivisions for mountain homes, villa lots in the immensity of nature, the introduction of plumbing and wire screen to the brook and the forest, all the comforts of home taken along when you go away to try and get away from them and have something different, exclusive colonies in nature's wilds.

Before it is too late the people should own a big piece up in the high places. Not the hot dry granite strewn slopes that no one wants, but the choice of the whole thing. Why not acquire the whole of Cuyamaca mountain, the top of our part of the world, and make it free and noticeless, not with the regulations such as hedge the use of the Yosemite Valley and destroy the native visitor's sense of ownership, but only restricted so as to insure the greatest good to the greatest number. Adopt a policy of 'DO" instead of "DON'T". Regard this mountain as the big asset of the Health Department, where the city-worn and weary can recuperate as free from restraint and expense as feasible. What a unique possession for a city by the sea, a mountain a mile high within three hours of its center. What an addition to its value as a health resort. What an everlasting monument to the administration that put through such a project.

Alas we have our harbor and exposition problems with us and what chance of attention has a non-revenue bearing mountain resort, a mere lung and playground for the people? However, I shall bring from the Hills the imagination of such a thing, and imagination is the start of all enterprise whether of the soul, the body or the liver.

Since this was written I have heard of a Government camping ground in the Laguna Mountains and a scheme in the past for a city playground up the Mission Valley, but neither of these fill my bill. The former must be too restricted and the latter lacks the necessary element of complete change from the sea to the high mountains. It is possible that an admirable location is within the watershed lands of the city. If so, there a citizen should not be discouraged by a "keep out or off the grass" sign or he is not a citizen but just a taxpayer. I will stop for

I see myself involved in the abstruse question of "Who owns City property?" complicated by a municipal election.

Agricultural Department Talk to Children

Washington, D. C.,——Some seeds make journeys with wings, and others travel from place to place by attaching themselves to the clothes of men or the hair of animals; still others make their journey in the stomachs of birds. These are facts that will interest the young people who are taking an interest in agriculture and are working in a garden at home or at school. According to the United States Department of Agriculture's specialist, the seed as the starting point in the life cycle of a plant may well be studied first by young gardeners.

The seeds of the maple tree are particularly interesting. They are provided with wings, and when they become detached from the parent tree a gentle breeze will carry them a considerable distance from the branch to which they were attached. There are many forms and modifications of the winged seed, as the linden, the hornbeam, the elm, and the pine. These are all common trees from which seeds for illustrative purposes can be secured.

Some seeds are also provided with parachutes or umbrellas, not for protection from rain and storm, but for purposes of locomotion. The seeds of the thistle, the milkweed, and the dandelion—in fact, the seeds of all plants which have a cottony growth—are provided for these aerial journeys.

Besides these, some seeds are provided with hooked appendages by which they can attach themselves to the clothing of men or to the hair of animals, so that they become transported from place to place. Other seeds have hard seed coats, or shells, which are covered in many cases by edible fruit. The fruits are eaten by birds, but the seeds are not digested, and in this way become distributed from place to place. The groves of cedars which are characteristic of the landscape in many sections of the country, it will be noted are chiefly placed along the lines of fences or fence rows. The fruit of the cedar is an edible one, but the seed is not digestible, and in this way the existence of these hedge rows of cedars is explained. Cherries, grapes, and other fruits are to a considerable extent disseminated in like manner.

The hard nuts of our nut-bearing trees are not used as food by birds or large animals, but are usually sought by squirrels and small rodents, which are in the habit of gathering and burying them in various places or storing them in large quantities for winter use. The result is that a considerable percentage of those which are buried in this manner are never rediscovered by those hiding them, and in time nature causes the hard shell to crack open, and the warmth and moisture of the soil brings the germ contained in the kernel into life and a tree springs into existence. It will be noted that the nuts which were buried by the squirrels did not germinate immediately after being buried, but waited until the warm weather of the spring came before they put forth their tender shoots. This is not because they willed it, but because the hard, outer walls of the shell would not admit the air and water to the germ, so as to stimulate its growth.

It was necessary that the shell be frozen and broken by the action of the frosts and the weather before moisture could gain an entrance to cause the swelling of the germ. This peculiarity, when taken advantage of commercially, is called stratification. Seeds with hard shells, such as cherries, peaches, plums, and the like, have to be stratified—that is, they must be planted in the fall where the plants are to grow or they must be packed away in boxes of sand in a position where they will freeze and remain frozen during the winter, in order that they may germinate the following spring. If seeds of this character are stored and kept dry during the winter they will not germinate if planted in the spring. Seeds with thin seed coats, however, like peas, beans, etc., if treated in like manner, will be destroyed by the action of the cold, and no plants will result from planting them in the autumn. Such seeds must, from the nature of the case, be retained in a dry and comparatively warm place during the winter season, in order that their vitality may not be destroyed.

March 15, 1915.

At the San Francisco Exposition, the Netherlands has made a wonderfully fine exhibit of Rhododendrons. They require cool and shade and will never thrive well here without special care and skill. Some day we may have such plants on Palomar Mountain, for beneath the shade of huge trees and along mountain streams, with their roots in deep leaf-mold, are the conditions that they require.

What air-castles one can build of the future of San Diego, with the flowers as the central feature. Trips to Palomar to view Rhododendrons and Azalies in bloom; trips to the desert, to see the Cacti and desert flowers; trips to Ramona for wild lilacs, to Mesa Grande for cherries and trips to Cuyamaca for pines and firs and fields of flowers. The auto is bringing the mountain tops and valleys closer to us daily.

Rose Carnival—Expo.—May 15th.

The ROSE

The unseasonably dry warm March though great for tourists was not conducive to the best rose development, which reaches its very best through a slower, cooler process. However in these days of wars and rumors of wars the wise make the best of what is and leave regrets for what might have been to the rest. Most varieties are already in bud and must not be allowed to suffer for water; put some of those billions of run off to their roots and follow with cultivation. It is poor policy and no economy of water to wait till things are dry before applying water.

Mildew will surely be prevalent; it delights in dry weather when wet should be. Sulphur in the morning when the dew on the leaves will cause it to adhere. Aphis are already incubating or going through their much more efficient process of multiplication, which forms their chief source of damage. Squeeze them, spray them, discourage them some way.

Disbud at least some of your bushes so that the Easterner may not crow about our lack of quality. It is no great accomplishment to have twenty on one stalk; the rosarian knows that nineteen of them ought not to be there.

If you want to see how to handle roses visit the rose garden in the Park, just North of the Bridge. Here is going to be a sight worth while in a couple of weeks or so. Make a business of regularly visiting this plot and see how things are done, but remember that park roses are grown for mass effects and not so much for individual excellence. In the interests of possible exhibitions it is hoped to persuade Superintendent Morley to have a certain amount of disbudding done. Whispers are about that the rose chief worked in the past under Dean Hole and his being, at the time this whisper reached this scribe, in a sick bed was the only thing that saved him a rigid cross-examination, for it is confessed, shamelessly, that to have learned roses under the reverend expert would have been deemed a greater education than to have studied diplomacy under Roosevelt, or finance under Morgan. This favored individual will not however always be sick, at least it is hoped not, and Garden readers may expect to hear further under this head.

You can plant if you wish but it cannot be endorsed here; this is a gardening magazine, not a Chamber of Commerce pamphlet.

In a very short time stocks should be in condition to bud. This condition is indicated by the bark separating from the wood easily and cleanly. Unless this is the case labor is in vain. The technique of budding cannot be well set forth without illustrations, but almost any good gardening book contains them and the practice is extremely easy. Hosts of people keep saying "Oh I wish I could learn to bud." if they mean what they say, and it is horrible to reflect how many of the exclamations born of passing interest are unmeant, they can learn as easily as they did to cut up their food.

Suckers will be trying to grow undetected and must be taken off. For the benefit of the uninitiated and this paper is mainly for them, let it be said that many roses are wet-nursed so to speak throughout their existence. They grow by being budded on a stronger variety and this latter keeps trying to assert itself by throwing up shoots from below the junction of the two. These are the suckers that must be removed or they will draw all the nourishment from the budded part. As the varieties used for stock are not numerous and very characteristic, it is easy to tell stock from bud by the leaf for instance, which on the stock has seven divisions and is narrow and much serrated and on most of the choice varieties has five divisions and is larger and smoother. It is safe to regard with suspicion any strong shoot that has its origin below the surface.

When you have a nice General McArthur that smells as the warrior ought to, take it in to Mr. Moulie and hear him tell the story of the seven ladies with their seven McArthurs all different, that is if you were not one of the ladies in the story. Mr. Moulie smelt a McArthur at Rosecroft and declared it was the eighth of the name.

The display of Statice by K. O. Sessions, at the Flower Show was very much noticed, not only by visitors from abroad but by home folks. It is a most useful plant and needs more general cultivation. Its range of colors in the annual variety is giving it a greater value—yellow, white, almost pink, with all shades of lavender. The giant variety, Statice Magnifica, is particularly fine this year. It is a plant requiring a mild climate, so is conspicuous in our city. It has possibilities of commercial value, if dried by some special process, when it can be shipped to Eastern florists and decorators.

Note that the April meeting will be held in the afternoon instead of evening and that the place and date have been changed from the printed program.

The April Flower Garden

By Miss Mary Matthews

Where the soil has been frequently stirred and the weeds kept down it should be in prime condition for planting. Put out whatever seedlings you may have raised in boxes, asters, petunias, verbenas, etc. Go carefully over the chrysanthemum list, it is a long one, and decide just what you want to grow. Singles and the little ponpons, which come now in all colors, bid fair to rival the large show or florist's "mums." In this latter class dahlias have greatly superseded them. Fashions change in flowers as well as in bonnets. Agapanthus will want plenty of water and a good top dressing put on where it can be washed in around the roots, which lie near the surface. This is a good time for the planting of gladiolus. Objection has been made that the gladiclus is unsightly after blooming. Where they are in the mixed border this can be avoided by just after the stalk has finished blooming, lifting them carefully with some soil, laying them on the ground in a shaded place and cover with soil and litter, leaving about one half the top exposed. In this way they seem to mature the bulbs just as well. Cannas, as a summer bedding plant, have come rapidly to the front, and deservedly so. They are decorative, are free and continuous bloomers for a long season, withstand winds and fogs and increase rapidly. I notice that Dingee and Conard, the largest growers of cannas in this country now offer "San Diego" a variety with bronze foliage and a large spreading flower of orange color. Cannas should be planted in good garden soil, mixed with half of old stable manure well rotted. Water sparingly the first two weeks after planting. When growing freely too much water cannot be given.

Your choice amaryllis and crinums will need close attention now. Do not let them suffer for lack of water, and when working the soil around them be careful not to disturb the new feeding roots. Injury to these frequently causes non-blooming.

This is a good month to start poinsettia slips. If the weather continues favorable, tropical shrubs and vines can be planted. The Exposition exhibit at the flower show, showed some new and choice shrubs, suited to the home garden.

Speaking of flower shows, while they are always enjoyable, I am frequently conscience stricken when thinking them over. There are so many little things we could do if we would only think of it to help along the show and also the superintendent. It is no small job to superintend and carry in your mind all the hundred and one things necessary to a successful showing of the whole. I read the other day a prospectus of an exhibit to be given by a floral society in a town in the middle west. There are 327 members and out of this 300 have pledged themselves to make a showing from their gardens, one or a dozen kinds as the case may be. I wish that we might do this much at our next flower show. A number of exhibitors is a great factor.

This is a good month to sow seeds of perennials for another season's blooming. Boxes are to be preferred to the open ground for sowing, the double advantage being that while yet in a young stage there is a better chance of warding off the insects and in the case of seed sowing, to vary the depth of covering according to the size of seeds.

Campanules have proven with me to be one of the most thrifty perennials and if the first stalk is cut when just through blooming, they will send up side stalks for some time.

In the way of novelties, who is going to try the new celosia Childsii, "the Chinese wool flower," introduced from China four seasons ago, and who has tried tne "cardinal climber", a new climbing cyprus vine?

To Save Wilflowers

At the regular meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, held March 23, the following Resolution was presented and passed:

Resolved, that the attention of the Secretary of the Interior, the Hon. Franklin K. Lane, be called to the necessity of some government action to preserve for immediate posterity the rapidly disappearing wildflowers of California.

To this end it is suggested that wild flower refuges, such as have been established for wild animals and birds, be set apart for wild flowers, and that a systematic scheme of replanting be inaugurated in the National Parks.

It is also respectfully suggested that the Seed Distribution Bureau of the Department of Agriculture might substitute wild flower seed packages for some of the common vegetables, which are procurable in every locality at a nominal figure.

At the San Francisco Exposition pink hyacinths in the Court of Flowers were the first to bloom and are now succeded by anemones and pansies. Daffodills were planted by the millions. The orchid display was a nine days wonder, but I often think if shirley poppies and hollyhocks were as rare they would be thought more of."

Summer Blooming Bulbs

L. A. BLOCHMAN

The summer blooming bulbs are those generally blooming at a later season than the hyacinths, narcissus, tulips, freesias, watsonias, etc., the so-called "Spring Bulbs."

By far the most important of these bulbs to us, is the dahlia, blooming from late spring, till early winter, thriving in any soil, with almost any exposure, free from insect pests and fungii and with almost any culture. With its vast and varying array of different colors and forms, this plant is bound to occupy an ever-increasing space in our gardens. The dahlia, while called a bulb, is also readily raised from seed or cuttings, blooming the first season from either. The "Garden" has so often given full directions for the culture of the dahlia that it will be unnecessary to enter into any details here—Remember however, that the dahlia is a rapid grower and bears quantities of flowers and therefore requires plenty of moisture and fertilizer and with these two requisites and some sun, success is certain. Also the dahlia bulb does not sprout from the bulb like a potato but from the stem so when dividing dahlia bulbs be sure to split the stem so as to have a piece attached to each bulb.

Second in importance comes the gladiolus and although classed as a summer bulb, we can have flowers at almost any season by a succession of plantings. Like the dahlia, the gladiolus come in all shades and we also have the blue shades that we do not have in the dahlia. They hybridize easily and therefore each year sees splendid new varieties on the market. The gladiolus is increased by dividing the bulbs and by planting the bulblets, which bloom the second year. They may also be raised from the seed by those who have the patience to await their blooming. For good gladiolus, fertilizer and moisture are necessary. Bone meal or cow manure are good fertilizer. Keep the manure away from the bulbs. Sand in the bottom of the holes wherein they are planted will help do that.

Tuberous begonias should be planted by everyone. They require little care and are in bloom till frost. Now is the time to plant. If the bulbs have not started to sprout, start them in damp moss so as to find out the top of the bulb from the bottom. Plant them in a loose porous soil that will drain well, as should be planted all plants with fibrous roots. One-third loam, one-third sand, and one-third leaf mold makes a good soil for the begonia. Keep the soil moist and keep the plants in a cool, shaded spot. Fertilize with liquid manure, or a little dried blood added to the surface will be found very beneficial. It is better to plant in pots so as to be able to dry off the bulbs after the blooming season, but if bedded out with a north exposure the begonia will thrive.

The gloxinia is not planted as often as it should be. It is almost as easily raised as the begonia, but the soil must be loose and well drained or it will not succeed. It is more sensitive in this regard than the begonia, also in watering keep the leaves and flowers dry. But the resulting flowers repay one for any little extra care bestowed.

The fancy leaved calladium, though not a flower, is a bulb and the beautiful and varied foliage make up for the lack of flowers. The calladium should not be planted too early and be sure not to overwater as the bulbs decay very easily. Also when the bulbs show signs of resting, dry off and store in a cool dry place. Calladiums require a moist heat to succeed best. Wants more sun and heat than the begonia.

The agapanthus or African lily with its stalks of bright blue flowers make a nice bulb for the garden. They require no especial care or attention and thrive well in the sun. The amaryllis is too well known to require more than a mention and the late pink ones are especial favorites.

The montbretia has been greatly improved of late years and we now have various shades and mixtures of red, yellow, and orange to choose from. They thrive in any good soil and require no special culture, do best in the sun, and may be even planted in the full shade. They multiply very rapidly. Like the gladiolus they should be picked when the first flowers open and they will continue to open in the house when placed in water—change the water daily and keep cutting off the bottom portions of the stems, when they will keep fresh for a considerable time.

Before closing this article, I will mention the tuberose. Tuberose planted sucessively will give a sucession of bloom that last some time. Many of the lilies bloom through the summer. Don't forget to plant cannas.

Mrs. D. O. Hunt of St. Helena, a new subscriber to "California Garden", and a very delighted visitor here last fall, writes as follows:

"I have raised forty-four seedling dahlias from my premium packet of seed. They are already set in the ground.

At the Mission Cliff Gardens the display of cinerarias is most excellent. The small flowering varieties are very attractive and dainty and so full of bloom.

A Possible California Hardy Border

A request has reached the Garden for an article on a hardy border, and as next to an article the Garden likes a suggestion for one, here is the response.

Why don't we have the hardy border in California, when nine out of ten of our gardeners had one in other climes? The answer is because of climatic conditions which have precluded the planting of such a border and leaving it alone afterwards. Six months of no rain spells irrigation and irrigation has spelled cultivation and cultivation has regulated the hardy border out of our gardens. Kindly notice the verb is "has" not "does". Herded on by the cry of the dry cultivator we have cultivated many choice flowers to death by disturbance of their delicate root action near the top of the ground, and while realizing what was happening we have said "it cannot be helped for we must conserve moisture with a mulch of loose earth." Emboldened by an intense desire to grow these tabooed things, certain ones have dared to try letting the earth have long periods of rest from the everlasting tickling, and substituted the earth mulch with straw, leaves or seaweed and heresy of heresies, have sprinkled instead of irrigating. These courageous ones have started a hope for the hardy border.

The writer of this has always contended that the method of irrigation by flooding or open trenches was most harmful to the soil, collecting the salts near the surface to the extent of sterility almost, which the seasonal rainfall alone keeps from being absolute, moreover it entails enormous expenditure in labor. The recognition of this has led to the installation of overhead sprinkling systems in hosts of nurseries, and truck farms are installing it in the Southern States. This overhead sprinkling is the second encouragement to the hardy border.

Basing our operations on these two spots of light in years of failure let us suppose a new effort at the hardy border that is not necessarily foredoomed.

The location is along a fence or a wall, the latter is according to old world ethics, and along this wall is installed a sprinkling system with pipe so perforated as to wet a space in front of it four to six feet. This space is excavated so as to be six inches below the surrounding ground level. The soil within this shallow pit is worked down for two feet, and either by natural dispensation or artificial means is made to consist of a friable non-baking mixture, one-quarter sand, one-quarter well rotted manure, preferably of the cow variety, the rest loam; if a proportion of leaf mould could be used so much the better. When the mixture has been made the bed must be flooded and well settled before planting.

Hollyhocks may go in the back, if one is prepared to be disappointed. Of medium growers there are delphiniums, foxglove, lobelia cardinalis, shorter, Iris in variety and all the Narcissus family and kindred bulbs. However there is no pretense here to give a planting table only an idea for a condition to approach hardy border possibility. When planting is done the whole surface should be covered with a mulch that will keep sun out and let water in. As to location the exposure should be either eastern or southern, and well protected; a northern exposure would not do.

This is a scheme to plant a border and never stir the earth for a year and how the author dared to suggest it after twenty-seven years of exactly the opposite program is hard to understand, perhaps the General McArthur rose in front of him as he writes gave him the necessary courage for it grew on a standard, a form of rose culture he was told was impossible in his garden. After all these practical suggestions it must be allowable to moralise. Don't believe in impossibilities in your garden till you have proved them by failure. This does not mean be foolish and disregard the teachings to be had from others' failures.

Celosia, or cockscomb, is now grown in a great variety of colors and forms. Seedling plants can be transplanted now and seed also can be sown for a later crop.

Every garden should have a corner with blue bachelor buttons—transplant seedlings now, or scatter some seed.

The "Pride of Maderia," Echium fastuosum, with bright blue flower spikes, are in bud and soon should be in full bloom. It is growing on the north side of the bridge, on the eastern slope and near the foot; also a few clumps along the path on the north side of the California building, at the northeast corner of the San Joaquin Building, and other places.

Thin out flower buds among the roses. Weed and spade the ground about the plants with a fine mulching. Tie up the fast growing fuchsias and nip back the side branches of those which are thick and not tall enough.

The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
G. T. Keene, Manager

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Note Changes in April Meetings

The regular meeting of the Floral Association appointed for the 20th of April will be held on the afternoon of the 13th, between 4 and 6 p. m., with Miss Alice Lee at her residence 3560 Seventh street.

The out-of-door meeting of the Floral Association will be held the afternoon of the 20th of April with Miss Sessions at her Gardens at Pacific Beach. Trains leave at 2:15.

May Rose Festival

Arrangements are being made to merge the Spring Rose Show into a May Rose Festival to be held May 15th within the Exposition grounds.

Special rose dances in costume will be given under the auspices of the Misses Strohbar and Hanker, and processions and other features are under consideration.

The Garden will come out earlier than usual for May in order to disseminate detailed information.

May Regular Meeting

"Tropical Plants" is the subject of the May meeting, which will be held Tuesday evening, May 18, at the L. A. Blochman residence, 3260 First St. Take No. 3 or No. 5 cars north to Thorn St.

At Mission Cliff Gardens.

The May out-door meeting of the Floral Association will be held at Mission Cliff Gardens, Tuesday afternoon, May 4th, at 2 o'clock.

March Meeting

The March meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held on the evening of the 23d, at the home of Miss Freese, Sixth St. and Ivy Lane. The fact that it was the night of the primaries probably caused the attendance to be less than it would otherwise have been, but those who were present passed a very pleasant and instructive evening.

Mr. John Morley, Park Superintendent, spoke on the subject of "color harmony" and pictured the ideal garden with its trees, nooks, rockeries, ferns, shrubs, etc. He called attention to the difference between the home garden planting and the parks. In the latter, there seems to be a demand for masses of brilliant color, with green foliage as a background or frame to the picture. The uses of various kinds of trees, their habits, and color combinations with flowers was thoroughly discussed.

Mr. L. A. Blochman talked on the other subject for discussion, "Summer Blooming Bulbs" which will be found elsewhere in this number.

Dr. L. A. Viersen sang two very pleasing tenor solos.

Asters must be set out in well-prepared beds. Scabiosa seedlings are of good size for transplanting. Select your zinnia seed and plant it. Verbenas thrive when planted at this time and a few clumps of agapanthus are needed in every garden.

Acacias need pruning directly after their fulness of bloom. Cut back the side branches, but not the main central stem, excepting at the top.

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PLANT DAHLIA TUBERS

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

Dahlia tubers can now be planted, and where a good number are to be used it would materially add to the length of the blooming period if two or three plantings at intervals of two weeks were made. Very large clumps can be profitably divided, but it must be borne in mind that dahlias, unlike potatoes, don't sprout from eyes in the tubers but from the crown, that portion from which the old stalk sprung. If more than one old stalk remains, it will be quite safe to divide, leaving one stalk on each division. If only one large stalk exists, cut down through the center of it. These divisions properly made give almost better results than very large clumps which are apt to persist in sending up a quantity of weak shoots rather than one or two strong ones.

Deep planting is best here, but when such is practiced it is wise to cover only a couple of inches and fill afterwards as growth progresses, otherwise there is danger of rot. By deep, six inches of cover soil is meant.

No manure should be used at planting nor should any be in contact with tubers if unincorporated in soil. Ground should be well loosened all round, a large hole is economy.

Don't crowd, a well-grown dahlia must have three feet each way and should have four.

If you are going to use stakes put them in when you plant and avoid spiking the tubers, but it is frankly admitted that the pinching back method is preferred, particularly in large beds. A lonely dahlia may have an excuse for a support.

SHORT NOTES ON THE EXPOSITION

The Streptocarpus, South African Primroses, are a great success on the floor of the lath house, white, striped, and all shades ot lavender. They are borne in graceful clusters, have a gloxinia-like flower, the leaves are large, velvety and effective. This plant is grown from seed and by division, and will thrive in any lathhouse for a border, also in shady locations outside. It is practically an everbloomer, rare and desirable.

The Rhododendrons in the lathhouse will soon be in bloom. The one plant already in flower is very beautiful and these plants should be observed by every plant lover, for San Diego has not had before any chance to see this beautiful shrub in bloom.

The flower beds at the north of the Southern California Counties Building are coming in fine. The one of Baby Blue Eyes, with Pink and White Canterbury Bells just coming into bloom, is most choice.

Gladioli will also soon be a very strong feature in this same garden and about the building on the west.

Also every one must observe the fine and vigorous vines of Bignonia Cherere coming into bloom on the Colonnade of the front terrace, excellent, strong foliage, bright and large red trumpet flowers. This vine is also clinging to the rafters and walls of the same building.

The list of plants in the back of the guide book is most worthy of note, and when the labels are placed on conspicuous plants the list will be of far greater interest and value. The good work should be hastened.

The vine of Vitis Utilans growing over the pool in the glass house is showing its aerial roots very effectively; also on the southeast front of lath house outside it is growing in the arch over the windows and the pink roots are showing there to advantage.

MANY CULTIVATED AMERICAN PLUMS ORIGINATED FROM WILD NATIVE VARIETIES.

New Bulletin Records Achievements of American Horticulturists Who Have Developed a Fruit, the Value of Which Was Long Overlooked.

Washington, D. C., March 9.—The wild North American plum has given rise to more cultivated varieties than any other of the native fruits except the grape. These varieties have mainly originated in the Mississippi Valley, Iowa alone having furnished 175, Minnesota 74, and South Dakota 44. In Texas 97 varieties have originated. In these western and southern regions where several of the species appear to have reached their greatest perfection in the world condition, the greatest development in the future, under cultivation, may probably also be expected to take place, according to a new bulletin of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (No. 172) entitled "The Varieties of Plums Derived from Native American Species."

The new publication is a professional paper which should be of especial interest to the growers of fruit, particularly those engaged in plum breeding. It gives a list of native varieties and hybrids showing the origin of each

variety and the species to which it belongs, which should be of considerable value to the nurseryman and orchardist. It also gives credit to the various state experiment stations and private individuals who have furnished materal used in investigating the origin and relationships of the varieties under consideration.

With few fruits has there been an equal opportunity to report step by step the advance which has been made since the original of the first named variety was planted and cultivated in a garden. The new bulletin, therefore, places on record a distinct achievement of American horticulturists who have developed a fruit the value of which was long overlooked.

Interested horticulturists may receive the bulletin if they will apply to the Editor and Chief, Division of Publications, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The group of Cantua buxifolia shrubs at the Exposition, north of the north end of the glass house, are natives of the Peruvian Andes. The plant is a winter bloomer and very hardy. It would make an excellent shrub for the center of a flower bed—also good for a sheltered corner, as a background. It needs to be staked and evenly pruned in the spring. The bloom lasts fully two months.

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From Politics to Barred Rock Chicks

WE are sorry for our incursion into politics last month. It did no harm, but our good friend Keene had a very narrow and lucky escape, and we congratulate him. His election to the Council would have been beneficial to the city, but its effect upon himself would have been—Well, political.

With relief returning to chickens we chronicle that Cassandra and Hecuba are laying eggs steadily, so are their nieces up at the Model Farm in the Exposition, in spite of the prevailing tendency to lay mines in preference.

A breeder of Barred Rocks who exhibits and wins in Eastern shows visited Rosecroft and is now going through those backing and filling motions that have descended upon the chicken trade now horses are legitimate subjects for cat meat only, or European beefsteak. He may buy something to ship back home, but frankly we don't know, the points in this game are too new to us.

Many of our own folks have strayed in and they all say, "I did not know there was anything like this in San Diego." Well they need not feel too badly about that, for a noted Eastern judge said there is only one other in America.

Great Expectations, his harem and all their glory have been sold to Harrison Albright to embellish his Spring Valley home. His name is given so that you may realize the "concrete" fact and know why our hopes for chicken sense in the community have flickered up again.

Just now we would start you right in Barred Rocks at the current disregard of cost of production, but the only thing we have to give away is an old mare whose sole remaining service would be to raise other equine slaves for the tyrant.

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